

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
BARREN COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2008 TAXES**

**For The Period  
April 17, 2008 Through April 22, 2009**



**CRIT LUALLEN  
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE**  
**BARREN COUNTY**  
**SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2008 TAXES**

**For The Period**  
**April 17, 2008 Through April 22, 2009**

The Auditor of Public Accounts has completed the audit of the Sheriff's Settlement - 2008 Taxes for the Barren County Sheriff for the period April 17, 2008 through April 22, 2009. We have issued an unqualified opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole. Based upon the audit work performed, the financial statement is presented fairly in all material respects.

**Financial Condition:**

The Sheriff collected taxes of \$19,301,409 for the districts for 2008 taxes, retaining commissions of \$625,460 to operate the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff distributed taxes of \$18,622,609 to the districts for 2008 taxes. Refunds of \$54 are due to the Sheriff from the taxing districts.

**Report Comment:**

- The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Reconciliations

**Deposits:**

The Sheriff's deposits were insured and collateralized by bank securities.



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CRIT LUALLEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

To the People of Kentucky  
Honorable Steven L. Beshear, Governor  
Jonathan Miller, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
Honorable Davie Greer, Barren County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Chris Eaton, Barren County Sheriff  
Members of the Barren County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the Barren County Sheriff's Settlement - 2008 Taxes for the period April 17, 2008 through April 22, 2009. This tax settlement is the responsibility of the Barren County Sheriff. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for Sheriff's Tax Settlements issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the Sheriff's office prepares the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the modified cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the Barren County Sheriff's taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period April 17, 2008 through April 22, 2009, in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated September 28, 2009 on our consideration of the Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



To the People of Kentucky  
Honorable Steven L. Beshear, Governor  
Jonathan Miller, Secretary  
Finance and Administration Cabinet  
Honorable Davie Greer, Barren County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Chris Eaton, Barren County Sheriff  
Members of the Barren County Fiscal Court

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying comment and recommendation, included herein, which discusses the following report comment:

- The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Reconciliations

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crit Luallen", written in a cursive style.

Crit Luallen  
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 28, 2009



BARREN COUNTY  
CHRIS EATON, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2008 TAXES

For The Period April 17, 2008 Through April 22, 2009

<u>Charges</u>	<u>County Taxes</u>	<u>Special Taxing Districts</u>	<u>School Taxes</u>	<u>State Taxes</u>
Real Estate	\$ 2,305,357	\$ 924,971	\$ 10,399,839	\$ 2,083,944
Tangible Personal Property	292,642	109,822	1,203,769	1,081,599
Fire Dues		416,745		
Increases Through Exonerations	2,896	3,182	10,322	3,265
Franchise Taxes	139,201	40,692	560,899	
Additional Billings	140	121	588	127
Oil and Gas Property Taxes	1,339	447	5,604	1,211
Limestone, Sand and Mineral Reserves	618	206	2,588	559
Bank Franchises	149,655			
Penalties	17,111	12,330	76,392	16,111
Adjusted to Sheriff's Receipt	41	18	(161)	(1)
Gross Chargeable to Sheriff	2,909,000	1,508,534	12,259,840	3,186,815
<u>Credits</u>				
Exonerations	7,318	3,265	30,331	5,953
Discounts	45,422	22,450	188,862	51,633
Delinquents:				
Real Estate	27,320	15,708	123,037	24,689
Tangible Personal Property	815	441	3,359	995
Fire Dues		7,595		
Oil Property Taxes	369	123	1,542	333
Franchise Taxes	58	17	213	
Uncollected Additional Billings	130	82	543	117
Uncollected Franchises	11	3	46	
Total Credits	81,443	49,684	347,933	83,720
Taxes Collected	2,827,557	1,458,850	11,911,907	3,103,095
Less: Commissions *	120,459	45,254	327,578	132,169
Taxes Due	2,707,098	1,413,596	11,584,329	2,970,926
Taxes Paid	2,700,000	1,411,337	11,552,966	2,958,306
Refunds (Current and Prior Year)	7,098	2,259	31,363	12,597
Due District as of Completion of Audit	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 23

\* See Next Page.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

BARREN COUNTY  
CHRIS EATON, SHERIFF  
SHERIFF'S SETTLEMENT - 2008 TAXES  
For The Period April 17, 2008 Through April 22, 2009  
(Continued)

\* Commissions:

10% on \$	20,000
4.25% on \$	6,961,920
2.75% on \$	11,911,907
0% on \$	407,582

BARREN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 22, 2009

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

The Sheriff's office tax collection duties are limited to acting as an agent for assessed property owners and taxing districts. A fund is used to account for the collection and distribution of taxes. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a modified cash basis of accounting. Basis of accounting refers to when charges, credits, and taxes paid are reported in the settlement statement. It relates to the timing of measurements regardless of the measurement focus.

Charges are sources of revenue which are recognized in the tax period in which they become available and measurable. Credits are reductions of revenue which are recognized when there is proper authorization. Taxes paid are uses of revenue which are recognized when distributions are made to the taxing districts and others.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the Sheriff's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Deposits

The Barren County Sheriff maintained deposits of public funds with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as required by KRS 66.480(1)(d). According to KRS 41.240(4), the depository institution should pledge or provide sufficient collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount of public funds on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge or provision of collateral should be evidenced by an agreement between the Sheriff and the depository institution, signed by both parties, that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution.

BARREN COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
April 22, 2009  
(Continued)

Note 2. Deposits (Continued)

Custodial Credit Risk - Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a depository institution failure, the Sheriff's deposits may not be returned. The Barren County Sheriff does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk but rather follows the requirements of KRS 41.240(4). As of April 22, 2009, all deposits were covered by FDIC insurance or a properly executed collateral security agreement.

Note 3. Tax Collection Period

A. Property Taxes

The real and personal property tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2008. Property taxes were billed to finance governmental services for the year ended June 30, 2009. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was November 1, 2008 through April 22, 2009.

B. Limestone, Sand, and Mineral Reserves and Oil Taxes

The limestone, sand, and mineral reserves and oil tax assessments were levied as of January 1, 2008. Property taxes are billed to finance governmental services. Liens are effective when the tax bills become delinquent. The collection period for these assessments was December 1, 2008 through May 22, 2009.

Note 4. Interest Income

The Barren County Sheriff earned \$9,363 as interest income on 2008 taxes. The Sheriff was in substantial compliance with his statutory responsibility regarding interest.

Note 5. Sheriff's 10% Add-On Fee

The Barren County Sheriff collected \$97,400 of 10% add-on fees allowed by KRS 134.430(3). This amount was used to operate the Sheriff's office.

Note 6. Advertising Costs And Fees

The Barren County Sheriff collected \$1,970 of advertising costs and \$1,970 of advertising fees allowed by KRS 424.330(1) and KRS 134.440(2). The Sheriff distributed the advertising costs to the county as required by statute, and the advertising fees were used to operate the Sheriff's office.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON  
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL  
STATEMENT PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS





CRIT LUALLEN  
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honorable Davie Greer, Barren County Judge/Executive  
Honorable Chris Eaton, Barren County Sheriff  
Members of the Barren County Fiscal Court

Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On  
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the Barren County Sheriff's Settlement - 2008 Taxes for the period April 17, 2008 through April 22, 2009, and have issued our report thereon dated September 28, 2009. The Sheriff prepares his financial statement in accordance with a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Barren County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Barren County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Barren County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the entity's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting such that there is more than a remote likelihood that a misstatement of the entity's financial statement that is more than inconsequential will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control over financial reporting. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying comment and recommendation to be a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting.

- The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Reconciliations



Report On Internal Control Over Financial Reporting And On  
Compliance And Other Matters Based On An Audit Of The Financial  
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards  
(Continued)

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (Continued)

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that a material misstatement of the financial statement will not be prevented or detected by the entity's internal control. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in the internal control that might be significant deficiencies and, accordingly, would not necessarily disclose all significant deficiencies that are also considered to be material weaknesses. However, we consider the significant deficiency described above to be a material weakness.

Compliance And Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Barren County Sheriff's Settlement - 2008 Taxes for the period April 17, 2008 through April 22, 2009, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Barren County Fiscal Court, and the Department for Local Government and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Respectfully submitted,



Crit Luallen  
Auditor of Public Accounts

September 28, 2009



COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION



BARREN COUNTY  
CHRIS EATON, SHERIFF  
COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

For The Period April 17, 2008 Through April 22, 2009

INTERNAL CONTROL - SIGNIFICANT DEFICIENCY AND MATERIAL WEAKNESS:

The Sheriff's Office Lacks Adequate Segregation Of Duties Over Reconciliations

The Sheriff's office lacks adequate segregation of duties over reconciliations. The Sheriff's bookkeeper prepares monthly bank reconciliations and reconciles monthly tax reports to receipts and disbursements in addition to collecting payments from customers, preparing deposits, preparing daily collection printouts, preparing monthly reports, and preparing and signing checks. The Sheriff or another individual did not document reviewing the bank reconciliations or the reconciliations of the monthly tax reports to receipts and disbursements. Adequate segregation of duties would prevent the same person from having a significant role in the processing, recording, reporting, and reconciling of receipts and disbursements. The Sheriff could implement compensating controls to offset the lack of segregation of duties over reconciliations. The Sheriff or designee could review the monthly bank reconciliations and the reconciliations of the monthly tax reports to receipts and disbursements. Any differences should be reconciled. We recommend the Sheriff implement the above compensating controls and require the controls be documented as evidence of their existence.

*Sheriff's Response:* None.

